(d) if so, the details of discussion held in the conference and outcome thereof; and

(e) whether Government is encouraging co-operatives and societies to increase milk production and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The National Dairy Plan is at a preliminary stage of formulation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Issue like improving the productivity of livestock, disease control and prevention, feed and fodder development, strengthening of veterinary and dairy infrastructure and manpower, better utilization of Central assistance and impact of climate change were discussed in the conference. The conference also adopted the National Livestock Policy.

(e) Yes, Sir. Financial assistance in the form of grant is provided to State dairy federations/ district milk unions/dairy cooperative societies under various dairy development schemes.

Impact of global warming on agricultural production

†1258. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the climate of the country is undergoing a change very rapidly;

(b) whether the climatic change is affecting the agricultural production as well;

(c) if so, what has been the extent of its impact on the production of wheat and rice in particular; and

(d) what measures have so far been taken in order to provide a protection to the crops/production against the adverse effects of such a climatic change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The increasing average surface air temperature in the country over the past 100 years (1901-2000) were the order of 0.4°C. The frequency of occurrence of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, higher temperature in winter, etc. in the recent past has also increased.

(b) and (c) No definite evidences of substantial decrease in agricultural production in the country due to climate change, as the process is very slow. However, there are few factual informations reported on decrease in agricultural production in the country due to extreme events like cold waves, heat waves, abnormal temperatures and the excess rainfall. Preliminary simulation studies have indicated significant decline in food grain production due to climate change in future.

(d) During Tenth Plan period ICAR has initiated a Network Project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change" at different ICAR Institutes/State Agricultural Universities. The Project aimed to study the impact of climate change on agriculture and allied disciplines like bio-diversity, agroforestry, horticulture, livestock and fisheries. Research efforts are being made to mitigate the impacts of climate change by increasing the adaptive capacity of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

agriculture to global climate change. Emphasis has also been given during XI Plan period to strengthen the existing institutional network with additional budget to cope up to the challenges posed by climate change.

Deaths of marine species due to pollution and climatic changes

1259. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that rising pollution, climate change, etc. are spelling a death knell to hundreds of marine species;

(b) if so, what long-term measures are being thought of to prevent such a situation in our vast coastal areas, which apart from providing livelihood to thousands of our people also disturb the ecological balance; and

(c) what was the quantity of sea-food during 2007 and how much foreign exchange we earned from export of fresh fish and its products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Mass mortality of fish occur in coastal waters occasionally due to harmful algal bloom caused mainly by natural oceanographic factors. Presently, there is no evidence of mortality of fish in the coastal waters due to climate change.

(b) The Pollution Control Boards of the respective coastal States monitor activities which are likely to cause pollution and enforce compliance to norms laid down for prevention of waste water discharge and other pollutants in sea water. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Cochin has taken up studies to assess the impact of climate change on marine fisheries.

(c) During 2006-07, India has exported 6.12 lakh tones of marine fish and fishery products valued at US$ 1781.30 million.

Potential in National Bamboo Mission

1260. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Bamboo Mission and how far we have succeeded in harnessing the potential of this environmental-friendly plant;

(b) whether this plant provides income, food and housing to millions of people and there is imperative need to develop this sector;

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to ensure standardization and training in bamboo processing with a view to promote bamboo-related activities; and

(d) the details of its status in Orissa and Jharkhand and what is the action plan of Government to exploit its potential in these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on